



## Living or Nonliving



### **NYSSLS Connections:**

Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

### **Background:**

Ecosystems and habitats are made of interactions between living and nonliving things. In order to gain a basic understanding of how ecosystems function, students need to understand what things are alive (plants and animals) versus nonliving things (water and earth materials). Often, students will say a living thing moves. This can be a determining feature of a living thing, but it's not always true. Trees are alive and do not move while water is not alive, but can move all on its own. Things that were once alive, like a rotting log, are still considered living things.

### **Materials:**

Living or Nonliving pictures

Outdoor space

Journal page

Outdoor space

### **Activity:**

- Discuss what makes a living or nonliving thing; such as eating, breathing, moving, etc. Ask students if they are alive? What can they think of that makes them a living thing?
- Students sort the pictures into living and nonliving piles and discuss their reasoning.
- While walking in an outdoor space, students will draw pictures of the living and nonliving things.
- Students make observations and write down notes of how the living and nonliving things interact.

For example: A bird takes a bath in a puddle

An insect rests on a rock

